

Report of the Director of Resources

IRRECOVERABLE COUNCIL TAX, NON-DOMESTIC RATES, SUNDRY DEBTS AND HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To request approval for the write-off of irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rates, Council Tax and Housing Benefit Overpayments and to note amounts written off under delegated powers for Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Sundry Debts and Housing Benefit Overpayments.

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Borough Council has the power to write-off irrecoverable Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Sundry Debts and Housing Benefit Overpayments at the discretion of the Committee.

3 Appendices

- 3.1 Appendix
- 3.2 Further detail of debt for write off.

APPENDIX	TYPE OF DEBT	REASON
A	Non-Domestic Rates over £2,000	Insolvency
B	Council Tax over £2,000	Forwarding address not known
C	Council Tax over £2,000	Insolvency
D	Sundry Debt over £2,000	Forwarding address not known
E	Sundry Debt over £2,000	Insolvency
F	Housing Benefit Overpayments over £2,000	Forwarding address not known

4 Proposed Action:

- 4.1 **The Committee is invited to RESOLVE the write-off of £75,392.11 irrecoverable Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates and Housing Benefit Overpayments.**
- 4.2 **The Committee is invited to RESOLVE to note that the amount of £41,933.23 has been written off under delegated powers of the Section 151 Officer.**

5 Background

5.1 There are periodical reviews of outstanding debts for Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Sundry Debts and Housing Benefit Overpayments and sums deemed to be uncollectible are recommended for write-off.

6 Discussion

6.1 The Section 151 Officer has reviewed the amounts stated and has written them off under delegated powers in accordance with financial regulations.

6.2 All appropriate action has been taken. Debts have been thoroughly pursued via legal action in the Magistrates' Court; visits have been carried out by Council staff and specialist tracing/collection agencies. In all cases the debts were deemed to be irrecoverable.

6.3 A total of £41,933.23 irrecoverable Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Sundry Debts and Housing Benefit Overpayments have been written off under delegated powers as follows:

Type of Debt	Reason	Amount
Council Tax	Forwarding address not known	£22,323.46
Council Tax	Insolvency	£6,566.52
Council Tax	Deceased	£89.12
Council Tax	Uneconomic to pursue	£1,264.13
Non-Domestic Rates	Insolvency	£3,860.36
Sundry Debts	Forwarding address not Known	£150.00
Sundry Debts	Insolvency	£306.50
Sundry Debts	Uneconomic to pursue	£717.30
Sundry Debts	Other	£1,028.96
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Forwarding address not Known	£2,382.66
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Insolvency	£1,110.68
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Deceased	£399.00
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Uneconomic to pursue	£65.94
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Other	£1,668.60

7 Legal Powers

7.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that local authorities make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. Part of these arrangements includes arrangements for the writing-off of debts.

7.2 Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits the Council to delegate certain powers, duties and functions to Committees. The power to write-off debts of £2,000 and over is delegated to this Committee.

8 Financial and Value For Money Implications

8.1 There are no direct revenue implications as adequate provision has been made within the accounts for bad debts.

9 Risk Analysis

9.1 None

10 Implications for Resources

10.1 None

11 Implications for Stronger and Safer Communities

11.1 None

12 Implications for Equalities

12.1 None

13 Author and Contact Officer

Jill Stewart Council Tax Supervisor
Richard Watson, Business Rate Manager

14 Consultees

Nigel Robinson, Principal Revenue and Benefits Manager

15 Background Papers

Appendices have all relevant personal data removed prior to publication for general public. However, all details will be on pink paper for the committee to allow the decisions as asked to be made.

Appendix 1A

Non-Domestic Rates where the balance outstanding was over £2,000 and the individual or organisation has been made bankrupt, insolvent, been dissolved, wound up or entered an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA), Creditors Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) or has been granted a Debt Relief Order (DRO).

Account Number	Name	Address	Amount	Period	Reason
600904700	HK Taverns Ltd	88 High Street, Irchester	£2,199.51	2012/13	Administration
600904807	Toy Town StoresLtd	15 Corn Lane, Wellingborough	£6,376.88	2012/13	Proposal to strike off
600901279	Dunkley's Station Ltd	362 Grendon Road, Earls Barton	£17,487.48	2011/13	Insolvency
600896313	Be U Interiors Ltd	10 Bradfield Road, Wellingborough	£2,041.33	2013	Proposal to strike off
		Total	£28,105.20		

Appendix 1B

Council Tax Payers where the balance outstanding was over £2,000 and a forwarding address was not known.

Account Number	Name	Amount	Period
800851901	Mr T	£2,624.17	2007-2011
80085578X	Mr D	£3,366.63	2007-2011
800824577	Miss M	£3,276.99	2008-2012
TOTAL		£9,267.79	

Appendix 1C

Council Tax Payers where the balance outstanding was over £2,000 and the individual or organisation has been made bankrupt, insolvent, been dissolved, wound up or entered an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA), Creditors Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) or has been granted a Debt Relief Order (DRO).

Account Number	Name	Amount	Period	Type of Insolvency
800183161	Mr R	£3,222.22	2008-2012	Bankrupt
800657647	Miss B	£5,946.24	2003-2013	Bankrupt
800807757	Miss D	£3,537.70	2008-2013	DRO
TOTAL		£12,706.16		

Appendix 1D

Sundry Debts where the balance outstanding was over £2,000 and a forwarding address was not known.

Invoice Number	Name	Amount	Invoice Date
7000154140	Mr G & Mr C	£9,021.94	15.02.2010
TOTAL		£9,021.94	

Appendix 1E

Sundry Debts where the total balance outstanding was over £2,000 and the individual or organisation has been made bankrupt, insolvent, been dissolved, wound up or entered an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA), Creditors Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) or has been granted a Debt Relief Order (DRO).

Invoice Number	Name	Address	Amount	Invoice Date	Type of Insolvency
7000178265	Cars For You Ltd	1a Senwick Rd, W'Boro NN8 1NH	£5,930.40	07/09/2011	Company Dissolved
			£5,930.40		

Appendix 1F

Housing Benefit Overpayments where the balance outstanding was over £2,000 and a forwarding address was not known.

Invoice Number	Name	Amount	Invoice Date
5287462	Miss M	£5,943.92	14.08.09
4847832	Mr E	£2,301.15	29.05.97
5209990	Mrs S	£2,115.55	21.10.04
	TOTAL	£10,360.62	

